

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
of the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
and the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 22, 2002

1. Call to Order.

The joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chair Michael Berger at 7:49 p.m. on April 22, 2002 at the Temescal Canyon Conference and Retreat Center, 15601 Sunset Boulevard, Pacific Palisades, California.

2. Administration of oath of office to Advisory Committee Member Caroline Brown.

The Executive Director administered the oath of office to Ms. Brown, representing City of Sierra Madre, and Messrs. Beatty and Jennings, representing, respectively, the unincorporated communities of La Cresecenta and Altadena in Los Angeles County, and the City of Malibu.

3. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Elizabeth Cheadle, Russell Guiney, Hal Ross, Steve Treanor, Jonathan Zasloff, Woody Smeck, David Allgood, Jerome Daniel, Vice Chair, and Michael Berger, Chair. The following members were absent: Ed Begley, and Steve Horn. Quorum present.

The following Legislative member designees were present: Laura Plotkin, Mary Sue Maurer, Kevin Rudiger, Scott Svonkin, and Susan McEntire. The following Legislative member designee was absent: Michael Miiller.

4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Colleen Briner-Schmidt, Dave Brown, Michael Cacciotti, Ed Corridori, Lesley Devine, Terre Hirsch, Mark Johnson, Barry Read, Roseann Mikos, Linda Palmer, Anthony Portantino, Rick Gould, Alan Kishbaugh, Paul Rockenstein, Thomas Seifert, Marc Stirdivant, Kenneth Warner, Timothy Wendler, Don Robinson, Vice Chair, and George Lange, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Lee Bycel, and Nancy Stephens.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Acting Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Counsel; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; MRCA staff: Reva Concoff, Deputy Executive Officer and Chief Operations Officer; Amy Lethbridge, Deputy Executive Officer and Chief of Education and Interpretation; Wayne Daily, Deputy Chief Ranger; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Elsa Luna, Chief of Finance and Administration; Katherine Chew, Staff Counsel; Juliet Chung, Associate Governmental Program Analyst; Jan Wolterstorff, Public Outreach Coordinator and Project Analyst; Susan Shanks, Project Analyst; Judi Tamasi, Project Analyst; Marc Shores, Project Analyst; Lisa Melograno, Administrative Assistant, Tracy Dockery, Staff Services Manager; Melissa McCormack, Receptionist and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Nedra Austin, Deputy Attorney General.

5. Minutes.

The minutes of October 17, 2002 were submitted for approval.

Comments were made by Mr. Kishbaugh.

The minutes of October 17, 2002 were approved as amended.

6. Reports.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Ms. Skei.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Miller.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Ms. Lethbridge.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by Ms. Lethbridge.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Daily.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by Mr. Daily.

7. Members comments on items not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Devine and Ms. McEntire.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Messrs. Lange, Portantino, and Guiney.

Comments were made by Ms. McEntire.

8. Presentation by Gerard Van Steyn on proposed funding options for acquisitions in the Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Van Steyn.

Comments were made by Mr. Cacciotti and the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Ms. McEntire.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Beatty.

Comments were made by Mr. Van Steyn.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Maurer and Ms. Devine.

Comments were made by the Executive Director, Mr. Rudiger, and the Chair.

9. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.

The following persons addressed the Conservancy:

David Gottlieb, member of public, on item 13.

Efrom Fader, representing the Malibu Township Council, on item 13.

Bob Purvey, member of the public, on item 13.

Pat Healy, member of the public, on item 13.

Sarah Dixon, member of the public, on item 13.
Joe Ruggles, member of the public, on item 13.
Marsha Hanscom, representing the Wetlands Action Network and Sierra Club, on items 12 and 13.

Comments were made by the Chair.

Bill Carson, member of public, on item 13.
Steve Uhring, representing the Malibu Coastal Land Conservancy, on item 13.
Donald Nierlich, representing Coastwalk, on items 12 and 13.
Grant Neie, representing the Surfrider Foundation, on item 13.
Janice Lee, representing the City of Calabasas, on item 16.
Chester King, representing the City of Calabasas, on item 16.
Steve Craig, representing the City of Calabasas, on item 16.
Kote Lotah, representing AQUITY, on item 16.
Mati Waiya, representing the Wishtoyo Foundation, on item 16.
Alyse Lazar, representing Sierra Club and Save Open Space, on item 16.
Mary Wiesbrock, representing Save Open Space, on item 16.
Tsilah Burman, representing the Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch, on item 16.
Roger Pugliese, representing the Topanga Association for a Scenic Community, on item 10(e).
Nancy Steele, representing the Altadena Foothills Conservancy, on items 18 and 19.
Randy Young, representing the Temescal Canyon Working Group, on improvements to Temescal Gateway Park.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Karl Hinderer, representing Fair Hills Farms, on item 10(e).

10. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority redirect the remaining funds in the Las Flores Grant (SMM-887) and a portion of the remaining fund in SMM-900 to acquire additional tax defaulted properties pursuant to Chapter 8 Agreement 2140, in the Western Santa Monica Mountains, and authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire such tax defaulted properties.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing right of way for utilities at Temescal**

Canyon Park to Southern California Gas and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

- (c) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept an offer to dedicate approximately 2.5 acres (APN 4453-026-039) near Mildas Drive and Schueren Road, unincorporated Los Angeles County, pursuant to a California Coastal Commission permit.***
- (d) Consideration of resolution establishing leave of absence policy for Conservancy officers and employees, and delegating authority to grant such leaves to the Chairperson or Executive Director as may be appropriate.**
- (e) Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to County of Los Angeles on Conditional Use Permit No. 00-162-(3) and Mitigated Negative Declaration for hillside grading and other equestrian-related uses at 2705 Santa Maria Road, Topanga.**
- (f) Consideration of resolution confirming a letter of support for the Nature Conservancy's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant application for the Santa Susana Mountains/Santa Clara River adjacent property, Ventura County.**
- (g) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority apply for Proposition 12 Los Angeles River Parkway funds, federal brownfields grants, and EPA Clean Water Act Section 205(j) and 319(h) nonpoint source pollution reduction planning and implementation grants in support of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority River Program.**
- (h) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority authorize a grant to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for services related to acquisition of Confluence Park.**

Items 10(d), and 10(e) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 02-51, 02-52, 02-53, 02-55, 02-56, 02-57 and 02-58.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 02-51, 02-52, 02-53, 02-55, 02-56, 02-57 and 02-58.

(The full text of these resolutions are attached.)

10(d). Consideration of resolution establishing leave of absence policy for Conservancy officers and employees, and delegating authority to grant such leaves to the Chairperson or Executive Director as may be appropriate.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Mikos.

Comments were made by Ms. Collins.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-54.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-54.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

10(e). Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to County of Los Angeles on Conditional Use Permit No. 00-162-(3) and Mitigated Negative Declaration for hillside grading and other equestrian-related uses at 2705 Santa Maria Road, Topanga.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Read.

Comments were made by Ms. Tamasi.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended

adoption of Resolution No. 02-55.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-55.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

- 11. Consideration of resolution authorizing the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to establish a contingency fund for acquisitions and improvements within the City of Los Angeles portion of the Santa Monica Mountains and authorizing grants for such purposes from Proposition 12 and/or Proposition 40 subject to availability of appropriations.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-59.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-59.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

- 12. Presentation by the California Coastal Commission Staff on the Draft City of Malibu Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.**

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Mr. Gary Timm.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Brown.

[Mr. Gould left at 10:28 p.m.]

Comments were made by Ms. McEntire and Mr. Timm.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Devine.

Comments were made by Mr. Timm.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Ross.

Comments were made by Mr. Timm, the Chair and the Executive Director.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

13. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the California Coastal Commission on the Draft City of Malibu Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan.

The Executive Director presented the staff report on this item.

Comments were made by Mr. Jennings.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Jennings, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended postponement of Item 13.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy postponed Item 13.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the Draft Interim Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Lower Topanga Canyon Acquisition, Topanga State Park.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-61.

Comments were made by Ms. Palmer.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-61.

Comments were made by Mr. Guiney.

15. Presentation of the Urban Parklands program.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Zasloff.

This item was postponed.

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for Ahmanson Ranch Phase "A" Master Tract Map (TT-5206), Ventura County.

The Board and Advisory Committee considered this item concurrently.

Comments were made by Ms. Plotkin, Ms. Maurer, Ms. Mikos, Ms. Cheadle, Ms. Devine, and Messrs. Brown and Beatty.

On motion of Ms. Devine, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-62 with additional language in the comment letter declaring Ahmanson Ranch as the Conservancy's first priority for land acquisition.

A roll-call vote was administered and the motion failed.

Comments were made by Ms. Cheadle.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-62 as submitted.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

17. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept a donation of approximately 238 acres in Double C Ranch from Curtis Development Corp., near terminus of the Old Road at I-5, Los Angeles.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Wendler, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-63.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-63.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

18. Consideration of resolution adopting Project Plan for Millard Canyon, Altadena.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Beatty, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-64.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Treanor, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-64.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

19. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire, by offer or probate sale bid, approximately 11 acres in Lower Millard Canyon (APNs 5863-005-008; 5863-006-001; 5863-007-002, and 003), Altadena. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 11126(c)(7)(A) of the Government Code.)*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Beatty, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-65.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-65.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

20. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority approve Project Plan for Phase I of Artesian Park, Los Angeles.

This item was heard subsequent to item 21.

- 21. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority acquire approximately 2.5 acres (APN 5205-004-010) from AmeriPride Services, Inc., Los Angeles. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 11126(c)(7)(A) of the Government Code.)***

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Beatty, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-67.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-67.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

- 20. Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority approve Project Plan for Phase I of Artesian Park, Los Angeles.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Palmer, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-66.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-66.

- 22. Legislation: Consideration of resolution supporting: SB1508 (Scott), AB 2761 (Pavley), and AB 2891 (Koretz).**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Johnson, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-68.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-68.

- 23. Closed Session:** (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy v. City of Los Angeles, a charter city and Department of Water and Power; Tucker v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority et al.; City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Mirharooni v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Malibu-Encinal Home Owners Association, Inc. v. Lechuza Villas West, LLP, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy et al.; Los Amigos de Caballero Canyon v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Nervik v. State of California; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. Soka University of America; Sierra Club et al. v. County of Los Angeles; State of California, ex rel. Andrea Tuttle, Director of Department of Forestry and Fire Protection v. Southern California Edison Company.*

No closed session was held.

- 24. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.**

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on May 20, 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, AICP
Executive Director

MICHAEL BERGER
Chairperson